

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS19549C1

This legislation provides for necessary amendments to existing code pertaining to soil conservation districts and the state commission. These updates provide for the continued non-regulatory role of local districts and the state commission in providing assistance to private land owners on natural resource issues. The legislation changes the commission's name to the Idaho State Soil and Water Conservation Commission, provides for changes to how commissions are appointed, and clarifies that the commission hire its own administrator. The legislation streamlines audit requirements for local districts so that they are consistent with other government entities. The current authority of the commission to remove district supervisors from office is deleted and it is specified that supervisors are subject to recall. Current law regarding consolidation of local districts is amended to provide for election of a new chair and allows for a three year transition period. The legislation provides that the base allocation of funds to each district shall not exceed \$8,500 and that the total funds allocated to any individual district shall not exceed \$50,000. The legislation requires an annual report from the commission to the House and Senate Agricultural Committees on its cooperation with local districts. Further, after four years the Legislative Services Office will be required to prepare a report detailing if legislative intent has been achieved and if expenditures have followed generally accepted accounting principles.

FISCAL NOTE

There is no impact to the general fund. The commission and funds allocated to districts remain subject to appropriations by the Legislature.

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